Financial Assistance to Cardiac Patients

† 3967. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether at present Government provides a help of maximum Rs. 30000/- to the heart patients living below the poverty line;

(b) if so, keeping in view the fact that now a days expenditure on heart surgery goes more than rupees one lakh, whether Government propose to increase the above amount; and

(c) if so, the full details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) Under the Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi scheme there is no upper limit for giving financial assistance to patients living below the poverty line who are suffering from various life-threatening diseases, including heart ailments, the cost of crocedures for the treatment of heart diseases depends on the nature of

the heart ailment. The question of increasing the limit of financial assistance in such cases, therefore, does not arise.

Safed Musli, A Herbal Medicine

3968. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:
SHRI RUDRAKARAYAN PANY:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that 'Safed Musli' a medicinal herbal plant is cure for various ailments;

(b) whether it could be grown in backward regions such as Orissa, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and could improve the economy of the fanners;

(c) whether this plant has been classified as an endangered spacies by the Indian Institute of Forest Managment, Bhopal and its cultivation has been declining gradually, resulting in its imports on a large scale;

(d) with its manifold inherent benefits whether Government would encourage its plantation by way of subsidy and interest-free loans to the farmers; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.